Hafa Adai!

MVA volunteers enhance memorials in Marpi. PAGE 2
DOC officer accused of running a woman over pleads guilty. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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267 more NMC graduates set sail

NMC

A total of 267 Northern Marianas College graduates received their diplomas at the 43rd commencement exercises this past Friday. Graduates received diplomas in various areas such as business, accounting, hospitality, education, nursing, and criminal justice.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Setting sail to the Class of 2024, the Northern Marianas College conferred degrees and certificates to 267 of the graduating students last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Along with the graduating class, families and friends

See NMC on Page 4

Road rage turned violent lands man inside prison

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was arrested last week after his road rage turned violent allegedly leading to a few officers getting hit by a car.

Last Thursday, Sammy Christopher Kapileo was arrested for allegedly hitting a few police officers with his car in a fit of rage over a traffic violator stop.

Kapileo, 49, is facing

See ROAD on Page 4

Island-style Rota-rement

It's not unusual for postmasters to receive messages of appreciation from their customers when they retire from the U.S. Postal Service. What is unusual is that they receive such a message during an official ceremony hosted by the mayor of the community that they served.

But unusual is the usual

See ROTA on Page 4

Cruz: We're not bad people

» Also says tourists only hope for economy, not raising taxes

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), third from right, discussed his previous repeated attempts that he or either of two other Tinian Republican senators be included in the two committees chaired by Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), during the Senate special session on Monday, last week.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) last week said that every single thing that would go wrong in the Legislature, the Republicans would get the blame.

"I think that's not fair. We're here to work together

See CRUZ on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog and recently retired Rota postmaster Tina Ramirez surrounded by Ramirez's friends and adopted island family.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota) has voiced her disappointment with the Marianas Visitors Authority for their insufficient marketing efforts for the island of Rota on their official website, MyMarianas.com.

PAGE 5

BUSINESS

Saipan Dental Clinic, the newest addition to the CNMI's healthcare landscape, will be holding dental health presentations at William S. Reyes Elementary School today May 20, and Saipan International School tomorrow, May 21.

PAGE 10

LIFESTYLE

Security video aired by CNN appears to show Sean "Diddy" Combs attacking singer Cassie in a Los Angeles hotel hallway in 2016.

PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

MVA volunteers enhance memorials in Marpi

With the aid of volunteers from LJ Lawn Care and the Northern Mariana Islands Women's National Team under the NMI Football Association, the Marianas Visitors Authority has given a loving facelift to three memorials in Marpi, Saipan, that commemorate individuals who lost their lives on the island during World War II.

The three entities combined resources to complete enhancements at the site ahead of the Memorial Service Association for the Deceased Compatriots Overseas memorial service that was held at the Korean memorial last Saturday with dignitaries from South Korea.

MVA

World War II memorials in Marpi, Saipan, are cleaned and painted by the Marianas Visitors Authority, LJ Lawncare, and the Women's National Team of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association in May 2024. The memorial group Memorial Service Association for the Deceased Compatriots Overseas held a commemorative service at the site last May 18.

"We commend LJ Lawn Care and the women's national team for making tourism their business and helping The Marianas put our best foot forward for all our visitors coming to pay their respects at our memorials in Marpi," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres.

MVA

Volunteers from the Women's National Team of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association paint parking lot curbs on Saipan, in May 2024 to enhance the Korean, Okinawan, and Japanese memorials in Marpi.

MVA

Jeffrey David of LJ Lawn Care edges a sidewalk in May 2024 at the Korean Memorial in Saipan, as part of the company's community service to enhance the Korean, Okinawan, and Japanese memorials in Marpi. The project was also supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority Destination Enhancement Division and volunteers from the Women's National Team of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

With supplies provided by the MVA, LJ Lawn Care water blasted the three memorials, the parking lots and stalls, sidewalks, and retaining wall. They also trimmed plants and overgrown grass around the area and cleared debris. Twenty volunteers of the women's national team helped paint the facilities.

"The quality of work in the effort of beautification to our island is the reflection of our dedication to our tourism industry," said LJ Lawn Care managing member Lillian Camacho.

The project commenced on May 7 and was completed on May 14. ***(PR)***

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Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-004-24

- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-01
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-02
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-03
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-04
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-05
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DOC officer accused of running a woman over pleads guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former Department of Corrections officer accused of running over a woman's leg in a fit of rage has recently pleaded guilty to the assault and battery charge filed against her.

Former DOC officer Jessme Jones Martin pleaded guilty to one count of assault and battery last week before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho in the case where she was accused of running a woman's leg over in a fit of rage.

In exchange for her guilty plea, the government dropped the remaining charges against her to include assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

For pleading guilty to assault and battery, Martin was sentenced to serve one year in prison with the first three months to be served without the possibility of parole, early release, or other similar programs. The remainder of the sentence was suspended but may be reimposed for violation of law or Office of the Adult Probation rules.

The defendant was also given six days' credit for time served.

In his judgment and commitment order, Camacho said Martin will be placed on three years' probation after serving her sentence.

The judge, after the hearing, ordered the CNMI Marshals Service to take Martin into custody so she could begin serving her sentence.

According to court documents, at around 4:18pm on Nov. 6, 2023, police responded to a disturbing the peace call at a residence in Kagman. There police met four women, one of them being Martin.

Police noted that one of the women, later identified as Camille Torres, claimed that Martin hit her with her car.

Torres, in an interview with police, said she and Martin's husband, Nicko Martin, were earlier inside the residence when they heard shouting and

See DOC on Page 4

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CNMI OVA sets schedule of Memorial Week activities

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Office of the Governor, extends a warm invitation to all military members, families, and the community to join in commemorating Memorial Week from May 21 to 26, 2024. The week will commence with a proclamation signing on May 21 at 9am in the Governor's Conference Room.

As Memorial Day approaches, OVA is encouraging everyone to attend the Memorial Day Celebration on Monday, May 27, 2024, at 9am, held at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. This day holds particular significance as the community honors the memory of fallen heroes and pays tribute to their sacrifice.

Additionally, the occasion marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian, and all CNMI Marine Scouts will be honored. It is a moment to reflect on their courage and valor during this historic milestone.

For more information, contact the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650/51. ***(PR)***

CRUZ

From page 1

for the betterment of everyone," said Cruz during the Senate's special session.

He said since the beginning of this 23rd Legislature, he raised the question why Tinian senators are not included in the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee (EAGI) and in the Judiciary, Governmental and Law (JGL).

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) chairs the EAGI Committee. She was recently removed as chair of the JGL Committee and replaced with Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian). The committee chairs are responsible for appointing their members.

In removing Babauta from the JGL Committee, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) cited numerous pending bills and not holding a committee meeting for eight months. Some members of the majority in the House of Representatives blamed DeLeon Guerrero for several pending bills, including revenue-generating legislations, in the Senate.

Cruz said for him it's not fair that no Tinian senators are included in the EAGI and JGL committees because it will not allow them to address issues pertaining to Tinian matter.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ROAD

From page 1

charges of reckless driving, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, obstructing justice, resisting arrest, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, and vandalism.

Kapileo appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho last Friday for a bail hearing where the judge imposed a $25,000 bail on the defendant.

After his bail hearing, Kapileo was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody. Camacho ordered that Kapileo be brought back to court on May 24 for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment is set for June 3.

According to court documents, at around 7:47am last May 16, Department of Public Safety officer Kristen Salas was on duty traveling southbound along Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan near the NMI Museum.

During this time, she said she saw a blue Hyundai Tucson in front of her that allegedly made an unsafe switch of lane toward the inner southbound lane. This prompted the officer to conduct a traffic violator stop pulling the Hyundai Tucson over near the entrance of the U.S. District Court for the NMI building.

After pulling the Tucson over, Salas approached the vehicle and greeted Kapileo who was operating the vehicle. This was when Salas informed the operator that she was pulling him over for an unsafe switch of lane.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMC

From page 1

jam-packed the auditorium with beaming smiles, wet eyes, and several hurrahs, as the commencement carried on. Four graduating students received the Excellence in Service and Excellence in Leadership Awards and six received the Academic Excellence Awards.

The Excellence in Service Award for the Associate Degree Programs went to Richard Enrico Balesares, an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts, Education emphasis graduate. The Excellence in Service Award for the Baccalaureate Degree went to Mary-Jo Maris Camacho who received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

Excellence in Leadership Award for the associates degree went to Rownel Jody Coloma who earned his Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration, Business Management and Accounting Emphasis. The Excellence in Leadership Award for the Baccalaureate degree was given to Ainah Lizave Chargualaf, a Bachelor of Science in Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services Concentration graduate.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ROTA

From page 1

when it comes to the career of recently retired Rota postmaster Tina Ramirez.

Rota is a 32-square-mile western Pacific Island located in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Ramirez traveled more than 7,100 miles from her Kansas City home back in 2019 to assume the role of postmaster for the island.

Upon learning of Ramirez's plans to retire and move back to Missouri, the mayor of Rota decided to honor her with a resolution. "We thank Tina for her accomplishments and valuable contributions to our island," said Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog. "This resolution recognizes her outstanding achievements and her 29 years of dedicated service to USPS, the last five spent as the postmaster of Rota."

"I was extremely honored to have the island do that for me," said Ramirez. "Words cannot express my gratitude.

"My five years as Rota postmaster was an awesome experience," she said. "What I'm going to miss the most are the people. Rota is a community like no other. The population of 2,000 people is an extended family that helps each other, that celebrates with each other during good times and grieves with each other during the bad.

"Transitioning from Kansas City to a tropical island was surreal and a bit of a culture shock. But the community took me in and made me one of their own. I made friends here that I will keep for a lifetime. In fact, several of them adopted me, unofficially, and treat me just like family.

"My friends here taught me how to fish in the coral reefs, how to dive in the crystal-clear ocean, how to retrieve natural sea salt from the cliffs and how to navigate my way through the jungle.

"I got to live out an adventure straight out of a movie. I'm so grateful for that!" ***(PR)***

DOC

From page 3

things being thrown around.

Torres said it was Jessme Martin who was outside the house and she was trying to kick the door open.

Torres said Nicko Martin later opened the door and tried to hold on to Jessme Martin as Torres tried to run out of the house; however, she claims that Jessme Martin and two other women charged at her and began beating her.

While she was on the ground, Torres claims Martin got into her car and ran over her left leg.

Martin told investigators that she and her husband were in an "on and off" relationship.

On the day of the incident, Martin said she was with her husband having alcoholic drinks at his residence. They later went out with two other girls. One of the girls, Martin's sister-in-law, told her to sleep at her husband's house.

She said when they arrived at her husband's house, she was surprised to see the godmother of one of her husband's children there.

Out of anger, Martin got out of the vehicle and started banging on the window. She saw empty glass bottles and started throwing them at the main door of the house.

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3 | 47,767 | 3,981 | 1,991 | 1,838 | 919
4 | 57,720 | 4,810 | 2,405 | 2,220 | 1,110
5 | 67,673 | 5,640 | 2,820 | 2,603 | 1,302
6 | 77,626 | 6,469 | 3,235 | 2,986 | 1,493
7 | 87,579 | 7,299 | 3,650 | 3,369 | 1,685
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WIC CNMI

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application packet at the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office located on Upper Navy Hill, 11546 Isla Drive. The application acceptance period is from May 1, 2024 through June 14, 2024, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or vendors may request for an application through email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office no later than 4:00 pm, June 14, 2024.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information packet provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to Fabian M. Ulloa, WIC Program Coordinator, at (670) 664-4067 or (670) 285-4073 or by email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

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Ogo disappointed over lack of marketing for Rota on MyMarianas.com

ROTA—Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota) has voiced her disappointment with the Marianas Visitors Authority for their insufficient marketing efforts for the island of Rota on their official website, MyMarianas.com. The website, which is intended to be a comprehensive resource for travelers, lacks substantial content highlighting Rota's beauty, pristine beaches, historical landmarks, and unique tourist sites.

Ogo

"It's disappointing to see the lack of marketing content on MyMarianas.com," said Ogo. "The Marianas Visitors Authority really needs to enhance their marketing strategy by consistently updating their webpage. How can travelers learn about a destination without seeing photos of its tourist spots and historical sites?"

Taking proactive steps to address this issue, Ogo has launched her own social media campaign to promote Rota. She encourages the use of hashtags #BisitaLuta, #VisitTheMarianas, and #MyMarianas, urging social media audiences, influencers, and bloggers to share beautiful and amazing photos and experiences of Rota. This initiative aims to fill the promotional gap left by the MVA and to highlight what makes Rota a must-visit destination.

"By failing to adequately showcase Rota, we miss out on opportunities to attract visitors who are looking for exactly what our island offers—natural beauty, tranquility, and rich history," Ogo added. "It's crucial that the MVA invests more in showcasing what makes the Marianas special. This not only promotes tourism but also supports the local economy and preserves our cultural heritage."

Ogo's social media campaign has already gained traction, with numerous posts showcasing the stunning landscapes, serene beaches, and cultural sites of Rota. She hopes this grassroots effort will inspire the MVA to take immediate action by enriching their website with updated content, including high-quality photos, detailed descriptions, and engaging stories about Rota's attractions. ***(PR)***

mymarianas.com
As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry (Taga Stone Quarry)
The As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry is the most spectacular latte quarry in The Marianas. It consists of nine huge latte shafts and seven capstones in various stages of the quarrying process. It is unknown why this quarry was abandoned; some believe that the bedrock was not hard enough and some of the columns may have cracked. Others believe the quarrying operations were interrupted by Spanish colonization. Some archaeologists suggest that the ancient Chamorro craftsmen used fire to aid in the quarry process. Based on calculations, each latte shaft weighs 26 tons and an individual capstone 18.5 tons.
The Marianas

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Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport "Car Rental Concessions" REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS for: CPA-RFP-005-24

CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-09
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Website: www.cnmiports.com

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport "Car Rental Concessions" Request for Proposals for: CPA-RFP-006-24

CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-12
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-006-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

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LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The rematch is set: Biden vs. Trump debates have the right balance

The last time the Democrats and the Republicans held a White House rematch with the same two contenders was 1956, when Ike beat Adlai Stevenson for the second straight time. Earlier, there were redos with William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan (McKinley won both in 1896 and 1900) and Grover Cleveland vs. Benjamin Harrison (in 1888, Harrison defeated the incumbent Cleveland, who then staged a comeback victory in 1892).

In the pre-Civil War days, before the GOP existed, when there were Whigs and such, Martin Van Buren beat William Henry Harrison in 1836 and lost to him four years later. The same for John Quincy Adams besting Andrew Jackson in 1824 and falling to Jackson in 1828 and way back in the beginning, John Adams was victorious over Thomas Jefferson in 1796 and was ousted by Jefferson in 1800.

All the losers accepted the outcomes (although Jackson's bitter 1824 defeat in the House of Representatives was known as the "corrupt bargain") and such good sportsmanship is something we can't count on this year from one of the candidates. Something else that all these prior repeats shared was that none of the competitors ever face off against each other on stage, as presidential debates only started in 1960.

That also will change on June 27, when Joe Biden and Donald Trump, a pair of presidents, current and former, have a one-on-one on CNN, with a second debate, on ABC, on Sept. 10, the day after Labor Day. There are many good things here in this arrangement, which was sealed yesterday via social media (Twitter/X for Biden and Truth Social for Trump).

Even though neither man is formally yet their party's nominees (the Republicans gather in Milwaukee for their convention in mid-July, while Chicago welcomes the Democrats five weeks later) this election has been well underway since Trump closed down Nikki Haley's challenge in March, so there is no reason to wait until the fall.

The Commission on Presidential Debates, created by the two parties, and which has run the debates since 1988, is being boycotted by both campaigns. Just as well, as the commission's debates were to be on Sept. 16, Oct. 1 and Oct. 9. That calendar just doesn't work with early voting starting on Sept. 20 in Minnesota, South Dakota and Virginia.

Besides having the debates before balloting starts, we also like they are keeping out spoilers like Bobby Kennedy Jr., who cannot win. We were likewise pleased when Ross Perot was excluded from the debates in 1996 with our headline, "Ross toss no loss."

It's also helpful that there will be no audience to applaud and boo. Let the contenders duke it out sans cheering sections.

Biden only wants two debates, Trump wants more. We wouldn't be opposed to a third, as two or three have been the norm since debates became a regular feature starting in 1976. They did debate twice four years ago, so that's four in total. And Americans might get sick of these guys.

In all, it was a highly productive Wednesday, which Trump has off from his Manhattan criminal trial. A day well spent by him and Biden. To their credit, ABC will let others carry their broadcast so it can be seen by the whole country. CNN should as well. It's their debate, but CNN should let everyone, even those without cable, watch.

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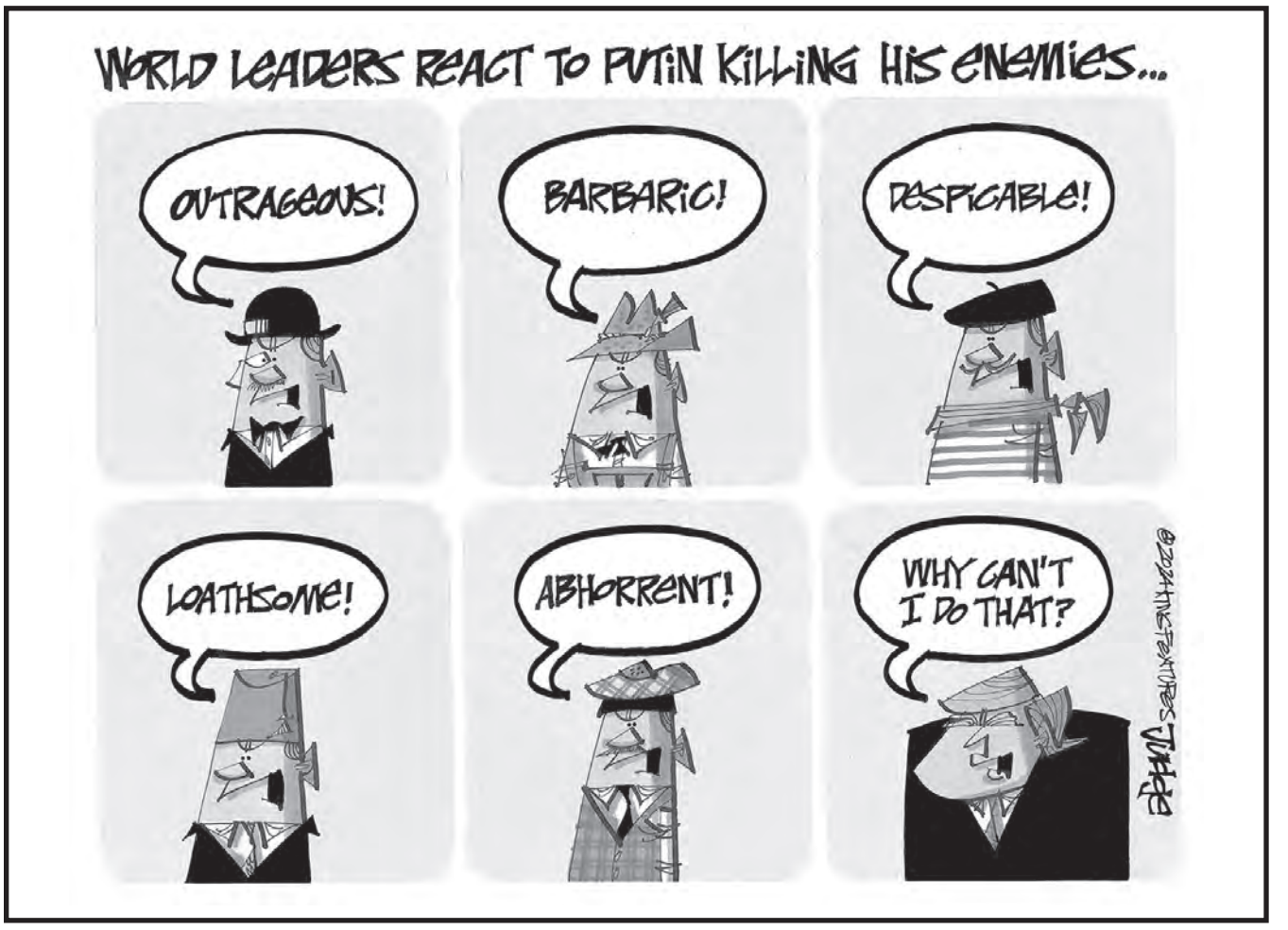


Trump would sell your grandkid's future for $1 billion

By WILL BUNCH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Will Bunch is national columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Sometimes the movies that stay with you for decades aren't the good ones, but the ones with an unforgettable ad or an utterly inane premise. That last category includes maybe the worst movie of Robert Redford's long and distinguished acting career, 1993's Indecent Proposal, in which a beautiful and desperately cash-strapped young wife (Demi Moore) reluctantly agrees to a one-night affair with Redford's immoral billionaire for a $1 million payout.

It was a dreadful film, but the sequel is always worse. Last week, immoral billionaire-on-paper Donald Trump made his own indecent proposal to the barons of Big Oil who dined with him at Mar-a-Lago. The presumptive GOP presidential nominee told the energy moguls that he's willing to get in bed with them and satisfy their wildest fantasies of crushing regulations, undoing the war on climate change, and cutting their taxes even more.

But inflation has ravaged even the world of political prostitution. Trump's asking price was a cool $1 billion.

In a week that was dominated by wall-to-wall TV coverage of the 45th president's felony election-interference-and-hush-money trial in Manhattan, Trump's pay-for-play pitch to Big Oil was the biggest story on Planet Eart —even if the media didn't cover it that way. Some who did follow the environmental story focused on the corruption angle, since a presidential candidate's explicit promise to perform official acts like slashing federal regulations if the executives would fund his campaign sure looked like, well, a bribery solicitation.

That's not wrong, but this politician who has learned how to talk like a mafia don also probably knows that without a more specific quid pro quo a jury would never convict him, especially in a corrupt America where Justice Clarence Thomas remains a free man. But the real problem, as I see it, isn't so much the insane $1 billion asking price as what a former and perhaps future U.S. president is willing to sell off: A future in which your grandchildren can still breathe.

The "deal"—Trump's own language, according to a couple of people at the dinner organized by oil billionaire and Trump donor Harold Hamm, as reported by the Washington Post —would involve reversing dozens of environmental regulations handed down by President Joe Biden. Most of those are aimed at halting the advance of climate change before it wreaks further havoc on U.S. coastlines and triggers inland drought, wildfires, and extreme flooding.

Trump and those around him continue to deny the seriousness and often the very existence of global warming. It's hard to understand how. April was the 11th month in a row in which each month set a temperature record, with ocean temperatures at sizzling levels that have shocked climatologists. The five minutes of the hour that cable news doesn't devote to Trump's legal problems has usually been spent on the latest weather disaster, from floods swallowing small towns in Brazil to the flooding now inundating Afghanistan.

The Paris climate accords — from which Trump sought to withdraw before Biden reinstated U.S. participation — set a goal of holding the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030, which requires about a 45% reduction in carbon pollution from 2005 levels. Even before his proposed corrupt bargain with Big Oil, Trump has laced his campaign with diatribes against wind turbines and electric vehicles. If the GOP candidate wins in November and avoids eating his terminal Big Mac, Trump will be in the Oval Office until January 2029, guaranteeing America will miss its climate goal.

In fact, a policy analysis by the site Carbon Brief suggested that a Trump victory over Biden would add a whopping 4 billion tons of carbon to the earth's atmosphere by 2030, which it estimates would create an additional $900 billion in damages from climate change. That would be quite the negative return on Big Oil's proposed investment in Trump—not for them, but for the rest of us. Stop me if you've heard this before, but elections have consequences.

The question is whether 2024 voters will be pragmatic enough to see this. A new Siena College poll for The Inquirer and the New York Times found that despite...well, everything, Trump is still leading Biden in five of the six key swing states, including Pennsylvania. Some voters are put off by Biden's age, some blame him for the post-pandemic price hikes, and some are mad, if not appalled, by his handling of the war in the Middle East. On that last issue, I am one of them.

But in November there will be only two serious choices. We know that Trump's Middle East policies are even worse than Biden's, and when it comes to climate change there's simply no comparison. Peace between Israel and Palestine may look nearly impossible right now, but a steep rise in global temperatures could be irreversible. Soliciting bribes from billionaires ought to be illegal, but throwing away our planet just to win an election—the most indecent proposal ever—is simply unconscionable.

A new world order for Gaza

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

If Bibi Netanyahu and his right-fringe Israel regime didn't exist, Yahya Sinwar and his sinful warmongers of Gaza's Hamas probably would have had to invent them.

But as things have turned out, Netanyahu and his gang not only exist, they have proven to be painfully gullible and tragically manipulable. Bibi's government has fallen into every trap Yahya baited for them. All the way back to Yahya's long run-up-con that led Bibi to urge Qatar to pour money into an allegedly passive New Hamas. That's what was happening right up to when the Same-Old Hamas caught Bibi's myopic military and intelligence big-thinkers clueless and flatfooted with their horrific Oct. 7 surprise.

And ever since, Bibi has responded just as it seemed obvious that Yahya (Hamas' most important leader still in Gaza) wanted Israel to do – with massive bombings of Gaza that turned the residences into rubble that left Gaza's innocent Palestinian civilians and children looking pathetic, starving, homeless and helpless in videos seen on news screens around the world, 24/7 – for half a year now.

On Monday, The New York Times reported in a front page exclusive: "As an architect of the Oct. 7 attacks, Mr. Sinwar masterminded a strategy that he knew would provoke a ferocious Israeli response. But in Hamas's calculus, the deaths of many Palestinian civilians—who do not have access to Hamas's subterranean tunnels—were the necessary cost of upending the status quo with Israel." The Times reported that "American and Israeli intelligence agencies have spent months assessing Mr. Sinwar's motivations."

But, of course, those conclusions probably seemed like old news to those of you who are regular readers of this column. Last year, just weeks after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel's civilians, I reported what U.S. intelligence, military and diplomatic sources believed was the reason Hamas staged such an unspeakably brutal invasion. Hamas had spent years building tunnels beneath Gaza's civilian apartment buildings, hospitals and schools – knowing that Israel knew the Hamas troops and officials would return to hide beneath Gaza's civilians – after having slaughtered, raped and kidnapped Israeli civilians.

"Hamas did all that just to goad Israel into a massive and lengthy retaliation that would kill many more Palestinian civilians in Gaza – and turn world opinion against Israel," I wrote in a column last November. "Israel did just what Hamas expected. And, just as Hamas also expected: Global news screens first showed one day of horrific news about Hamas' slaughter and kidnapping of Israeli hostages. But now, for more than a month, they have been pouring videos of the ongoing plight of Gaza's Palestinians, desperately fleeing Israel's retaliation."

Well, it's been more than six months now that the world has been watching those videos of sad and starving young Palestinians. Just as Hamas hoped and schemed, much of the world seems to have turned Israel into a global pariah. But that's not all. There has been an explosive overreaction that has extended beyond geopolitics and into antisemitism and even racial slurs on campuses of institutions that consider themselves places of higher learning.

Meanwhile, a world of leaders have failed to recognize and rally behind a concept I wrote about in the last weeks of 2023 that I believe could – and should – become a basis for unifying and healing all who live in that perpetual powder keg part of our planet. So let me try again:

It is way past time that world leaders – including United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, President Joe Biden and the leaders of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and all other nations in the Middle East – recognize that Hamas has seized not just one set of civilian hostages but two.

Years ago, Hamas dug massive tunnels beneath the homes of Gaza's Palestinian population – and transformed more than a million of Gaza's civilians into human shield hostages. Then, on Oct. 7, Hamas took Israeli soldiers and civilians hostage.

Yet, the United Nations secretary-general has remained silent. But Guterres is uniquely positioned to be able to champion a worldwide movement to free both sets of Hamas hostages. He can start by recruiting the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and others in the Middle East to urge that Hamas free both sets of its hostages.

Free the Palestinians held hostage by those who cower beneath them in tunnels. Free the Israelis who are held in those tunnels.

Let the world, led by Guterres, recruit future-thinking Arab leaders to bring food, medicine and fuel to Gaza. Let Arab leaders forge a new Palestinian Authority that, for starters, can become a non-Hamas Gaza.

And mainly, let's start today.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Japanese looking for family who took care of him 30 years ago

This is Masako Nakazato, a researcher for NHK Japan Broadcasting Corp.

We are the sole and only public TV broadcaster in Japan like BBC or PBS.

We are making a TV program called "Appreciation Delivery" (working title).

This is the program that someone who couldn't convey appreciation to others when they got help in the past goes to see them again and say thanks.

And we're looking for a family.

I'd like to ask anyone's help if they have any tip or idea to find them.

Mr. Nomura, a Japanese man, wants to find a family who helped him in 1994 on Christmas Day.

Mr. Nomura—then just 6 years old—and his father visited Saipan in December 1994.

During the vacation there, on Christmas Day, his father had a heart attack while they were swimming in the sea and unfortunately, he passed away.

Nomura had no idea what was happening and doesn't recall a lot from that tragic time.

Only thing he remembers was someone saved his drowning father and brought him back to the beach and gave him cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Then the travel agency, hotel staff, official authority on Saipan and Foreign Affairs Ministry in Japan worked hard and located Nomura's mother in Japan so she could come to Saipan.

Nomura is now looking for the family who took care of him when he was waiting for his mother's arrival.

He is so much thankful how the family took good care of him otherwise if they didn't help, he could have been in more trouble.

It's been 30 years and Nomura now is a father himself.

He would like to say thanks to the family in person so he decided to find them.

Nomura doesn't recall their names and where they lived.

The only things he knows are:

- The family is comprised of a father (who found Nomura's father), a mother, and two daughters.
- Their mother could be Japanese from the Kansai area and she could be working at the U.S. embassy in Tokyo then.
- Their father could be an American.
- They were staying on Saipan during the Christmas holiday in 1994.
- They could be only staying on Saipan for vacation, or lived there, he's not entirely sure.

Masako Nakazato
OneByOne Plus/NHK Japan

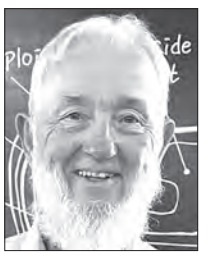
Six-year-old Nomura with the daughters of the family that took care of him 30 years ago on Saipan.

May is Republika ng Pilipinas PH Heritage Month

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



In honor of and with respect for Philippine Heritage Month in May I'd like to share some Philippine poets with readers this week.

WHAT POETRY DOES NOT SAY

By *Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta (musician and poet, 1932-2010)*

All shades of what is held Most dear most guarded
are frailest, easily violated, and therefore most readily
escape poetry's constraining Ministries: singular touch,
a hurried whisper audible only to the mind's ear,
a tune, a place, a fitful memory.
For poetry never says; It unsays. To say is to confine, contain.
To unsay is to explore the vaguely all-hovering presence
of the unseen, deliberately left-out.

BRINGING the DOLLS for ANYA

By Merlie Alunan (b.1943)

Two dolls in rags and tatters, one missing an arm and a leg,
the other blind in one eye – I grabbed them from her arms,
"No," I said, "they cannot come," Each tight baggage I had
packed only for the barest need: no room for sentiment or
memory to clutter with loose ends my stern resolve, I reasoned,
even a child must learn she cannot take what must be left behind.
And so the boat turned seaward, a smart wind blowing dry the
stealthy tears I could not wipe. Then I saw—rags, tatters and all—
There among the neat trim packs, the dolls I ruled to leave behind.
Her silence should have warned me she knew her burdens as I
knew mine: her clean white years unlived—and paid my price.
She battened on a truth she knew I must own: when what's at
stake is loyalty or love, hers are the true rights. Her own faiths
she must keep, not I.

NAGING BATO

Poem by Ivy Alvarez.
(Naging bato is a Filipino idiom meaning became valueless, lost, Frozen... literally turned into stone).

If Medusa were Filipina, I would want her power. Many's the time when one of us is gazed upon without consequence, when one is apprised, judged, appraised, for sale and consumption. This will be an end to it. Imagine people scurrying and scrambling, abandoning their tilapias, their bagoóng, and tribal tattoos, their instances of condescension falling, like crumbs to the floor in their bid to avoid my gaze, and turn all their ideas of escapes as mere grooves and chipped messages in sandstone, small grass tongues tangle in my eyes, graze my ears with gentle portent, the wet hand on each fang a dew on my skin, aspirating blessings and curses in equal measure, which I save for later. The brine of my foremothers' sweat calls to me, their thirst ever—and all—encompassing.

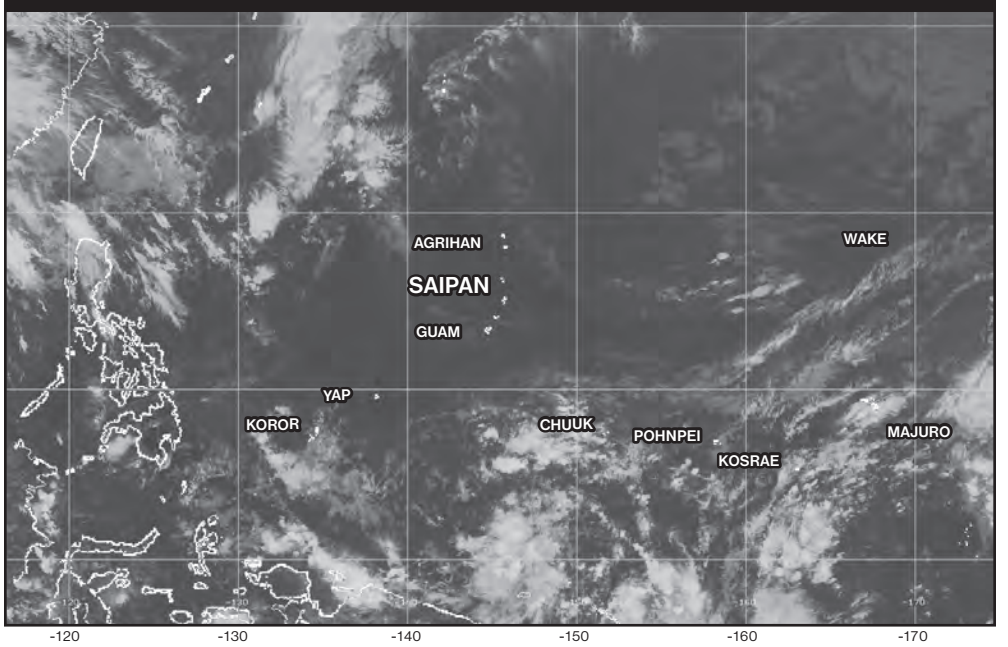
(Ivy Alvarez was born in the Philippines and raised in Australia, she lived in Scotland, Ireland and Wales before moving to Auckland, NZ in 2014)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph, with gusts of 25 mph during afternoon hours.	Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.
88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows some patchy clouds across the region, especially near Guam. Local airports report gentle to moderate trade winds and combined seas are ranging from 5 to 8 feet, with larger sets mainly toward the northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Fair/Wind	88° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Yap	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Fair	63° / 49°
Beijing	Fair	91° / 89°
Hong Kong	Light Rain Shower	81° /75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 46°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	70° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	60° / 51°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 74°
New York	Cloudy	69° / 59°
Osaka	Rain	83° / 63°
Paris	Sunny	73° / 52°
Busan	Sunny	79° / 55°
Rome	Thunderstorms	80° / 59°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 63°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 52°
Seoul	Sunny	81° / 58°
Tokyo	Rain Shower	82° / 65°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	64° / 62°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:14 AM	3:52 PM
Tuesday	-	3:49 AM	4:41 PM
Wednesday	-	4:26 AM	5:32 PM
Thursday	-	5:07 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	-	5:53 AM	7:24 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
5:10 AM	High Tide	1.90
12:04 PM	Low Tide	0.45
6:34 PM	High Tide	1.70
11:51 PM	Low Tide	1.09

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Incoming UOG freshmen invited to Triton Summer Academy

All new freshmen coming to the University of Guam this August are invited to register for the Triton Summer Academy, a free one-week program designed to boost college-level readiness in writing and math and to acquaint new students with university life.

The UOG Triton Summer Academy offers students to the opportunity to:

■ Experience college life with your peers before the semester begins.

■ Take part in workshops designed to prepare you for the UOG math and English placement tests.

■ Get direct, personal support from Financial Aid, Admissions, and other student services available at UOG.

"The Triton Summer Academy is a free, fun, and focused opportunity to help our newest students feel prepared to enter college-level classes and to help them meet new friends and feel a sense of belonging," said Dr. Gena Rojas, Interim Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success.

The one-week academy sessions will include a three-hour agenda daily, from Monday to Friday. Every day, the students will engage in an hour-long English Workshop, an hour-long math workshop, and an hour-long workshop focused on financial literacy and various student support services. The academy will also provide students the opportunity to test out of the developmental math class, providing them with a faster track to earning a degree.

Students may register for any of the following morning or afternoon sessions at https://url.uog.edu/triton-summer-academy.

June 10-14
Cohort 1: 9am-12pm
Cohort 2: 1pm- 4pm
Deadline to apply is June 5th

June 17-21
Cohort 2: 9am-12pm
Cohort 3: 1pm-4pm
Deadline to apply is June 12th

June 24-28
Cohort 5: 9am-12pm
Cohort 6: 1pm-4pm
Deadline to apply is June 19th

July 8-12
Cohort 7: 9am-12pm
Cohort 8: 1pm-4pm
Deadline to apply is July 2nd

Upon completion of the Triton Summer Academy, each student will be entered for a chance to win a $500 scholarship, iPads, AirPods, Apple Watches, and more.

Students may register for any of the following morning or afternoon sessions at https://url.uog.edu/triton-summer-academy. ***(PR)***

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA AIRPORT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION AIP NO. 3-69-0003-34/XX,** OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Airport Aircraft Parking Apron Rehabilitation AIP No. 3-69-0003-34/XX"* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. (CHST). FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan Internation Airport, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal. Bids will be delivered to the Airport Conference Room immediately following the 2:00 p.m. deadline, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, rehabilitation of the aircraft parking apron including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ($150.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 AM. FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024,** at the Rota Airport to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY (450) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,000.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offer or certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: April 19, 2024

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-012

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy-duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-24-012, Supply and Delivery of Heavy-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, ***no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2024*** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cuc-gov.org with copies to Steven Rodriguez, CUC's Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at rodolfo.rodriguez@cuc-gov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #07-2024(b)

Opening date: May 20, 2024 **Closing date: June 07, 2024**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(4) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)
	(2) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, June 07, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Business

Dental clinic to conduct oral health education at WSR, SIS

Saipan Dental Clinic, the newest addition to the CNMI's healthcare landscape, will be holding dental health presentations at William S. Reyes Elementary School today, May 20, and Saipan International School tomorrow, May 21.

The clinic's team of dedicated dental professionals will conduct interactive sessions for students from pre-K to 5th grade, emphasizing the importance of good oral hygiene practices and its impact on overall health.

"The mission of Saipan Dental Clinic extends beyond providing quality dental care; it is rooted in the belief that education and awareness are pivotal in fostering a healthy community. The presentations are part of the clinic's ongoing efforts to instill the value of dental health from an early age. Through engaging activities and informative talks, children will learn about the basics of dental care, including proper brushing and flossing techniques.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Dental Clinic's team of dedicated dental professionals pose for a group photo at its new Saipan facility at the CLL Plaza on Middle Road.

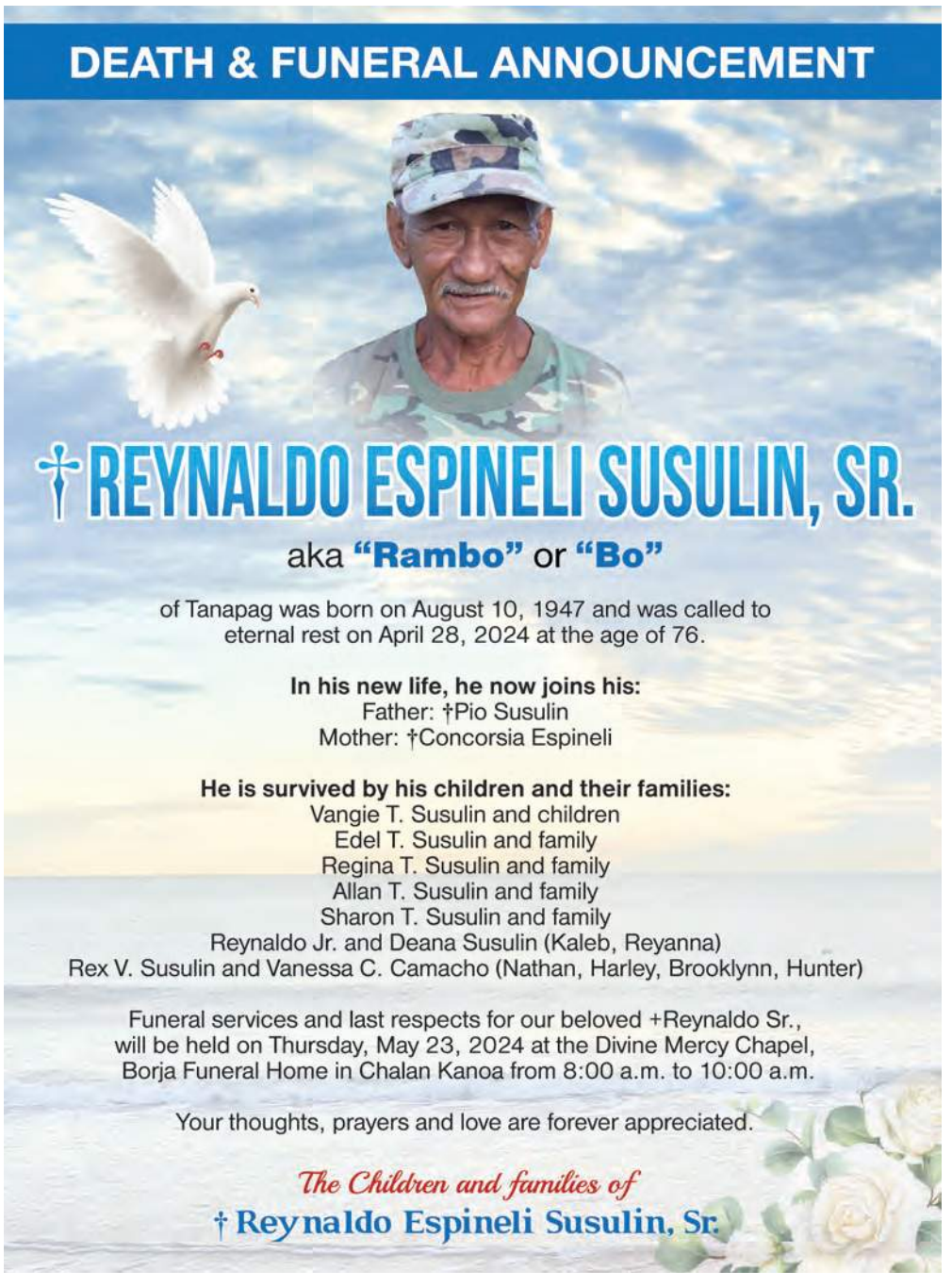
Saipan Dental Clinic is extending its heartfelt gratitude to WSR Elementary School and Saipan International School for their partnership in this vital project. The collaboration between the clinic and the schools will make it possible to reach out to young minds and contribute to their well-being.

Saipan Dental Clinic is now open and welcoming new patients. The clinic accepts Medicaid and most major insurance cards, ensuring that quality dental care is accessible to all.

For those without insurance, Saipan Dental Clinic is offering a promotional package that includes an exam, X-Ray, and cleaning for only $80 for adults and $60 for children 12 years old and below.

Saipan Dental Clinic is committed to excellence in dental care. With a state-of-the-art facility and a team of experienced professionals, the clinic is equipped to meet the diverse dental needs of the CNMI community. At the heart of the clinic's mission is a commitment to patient education and preventive care, ensuring that every visit contributes to lasting oral health.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Saipan Dental Clinic at (670) 488-8533 or email info@saipandental.com. The clinic is conveniently located at the CLL Plaza (Former IT&E) on Middle Road and is open all week (except Wednesdays) and also open on weekends. ***(PR)***


DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
†REYNALDO ESPINELI SUSULIN, SR.
aka "Rambo" or "Bo"
of Tanapag was born on August 10, 1947 and was called to eternal rest on April 28, 2024 at the age of 76.
In his new life, he now joins his:
Father: †Pio Susulin
Mother: †Concorsia Espineli
He is survived by his children and their families:
Vangie T. Susulin and children
Edel T. Susulin and family
Regina T. Susulin and family
Allan T. Susulin and family
Sharon T. Susulin and family
Reynaldo Jr. and Deana Susulin (Kaleb, Reyanna)
Rex V. Susulin and Vanessa C. Camacho (Nathan, Harley, Brooklynn, Hunter)
Funeral services and last respects for our beloved +Reynaldo Sr., will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at the Divine Mercy Chapel, Borja Funeral Home in Chalan Kanoa from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Your thoughts, prayers and love are forever appreciated.
The Children and families of
† Reynaldo Espineli Susulin, Sr.

PIC Saipan launches Kids English Academy

Pacific Islands Club Saipan recently launched its year-long Kids English Academy at the San Antonio resort.

"Kids English Academy takes place at PIC Saipan, where the beautiful natural surroundings and convenient facilities ensure a safe and comfortable learning environment for children. Additionally, the various activities and amenities within the resort makes learning more enjoyable and effective," said PIC Saipan.

PIC Saipan encourages parents to have their children embark on a cultural journey with the Kids English Academy.

"Are you looking for a fun and educational experience for your child? Located here in the PIC Saipan, Kids English Academy offers aunique opportunity for children to learn English while engaging in cultural exchange with Korean children."

And to make it more convenient and readily available for everyone—tourists and locals alike—PIC Saipan's Kids English Academy is also open 365 a day a year.

"At Kids English Academy, we believe in flexibility and convenience for our students and their families. That's why we're proud to announce that we are open 365 days a year! Whether it's a weekday, weekend, or holiday, your child can participate in our programs anytime, making it easier than ever to fit culture exchange into your busy schedule. While children engage in enriching activities with peers from diverse backgrounds, parents can seize the opportunity to immerse themselves in their work or simply unwind and relax."

PIC Saipan added that one of the highlights of Kids English Academy is the opportunity for cultural exchange with Korean children.

"Through our interactive programs and activities, students have a chance to learn about Korean culture, language, and traditions while making new friends. It's an enriching experience that promotes understanding and friendship among children from diverse origins."

Residents can join the program at a discounted price, offering an affordable opportunity for language learning and cultural enrichment, which includes lunch at Magellan buffet everyday. (Valid CNMI local ID is required.)

The special offers for CNMI residents are:

- $35 for one day
- $68 for three days
- $105 for five days
- $140 for seven days

In addition, a free entry for the Kids English Academy will be raffled off for local customers who dine at PIC Saipan's Sunday brunch from May 11 to 26.

"Participants have a chance to win free entry to the Kids English Academy, including the two-day, three-day, and five-day course options. Don't miss this opportunity to cultural exchange firsthand!"

For more information such as divers pricing plans or to express interest in enrollment, contact PIC Saipan at (670) 237-5157 or (670) 234-7976 (ext.3)/ email: reservation-staff@picsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Police conclude investigation into suicide of Boeing whistleblower

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—A former Boeing manager who raised safety questions about the aircraft maker and was found dead after several days of depositions in South Carolina took his own life, police said Friday after concluding their investigation. John Barnett, 62, of Louisiana, was found dead March 9, and police had said earlier that his injuries were self-inflicted. Barnett was a longtime Boeing employee and worked as a quality-control manager before he retired in 2017. In the years after that, he shared his concerns with journalists. Barnett said he saw discarded metal shavings near wiring for the flight controls that could have cut the wiring and caused a catastrophe. He also noted problems with up to a quarter of the oxygen systems on Boeing's 787 planes. "Information and records reviewed during the investigation uncovered Mr. Barnett's longstanding mental health challenges, which had intensified in connection with ongoing legal proceedings related to his whistleblower case," police said in a statement.

Elon Musk arrives in Indonesia's Bali to launch Starlink satellite internet service

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP)—Elon Musk arrived in Indonesia's resort island of Bali on Sunday to launch Starlink satellite internet service in the world's largest archipelago nation. The billionaire head of Tesla and SpaceX and owner of social platform X arrived by private jet on the idyllic "island of the gods," which is renowned for its tropical beaches, terraced rice paddies, mystical temples and colorful spiritual offerings. Musk is slated to launch the service alongside Indonesian President Joko Widodo in a ceremony later Sunday at a public health clinic in Denpasar, the provincial capital of Bali. Musk will also sign an agreement on enhancing connectivity in the country's health and education sectors, said Indonesia's Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investment Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, who welcomed Musk at the airport.

Life & Style

Video appears to show Combs beating Cassie in hotel hallway in 2016

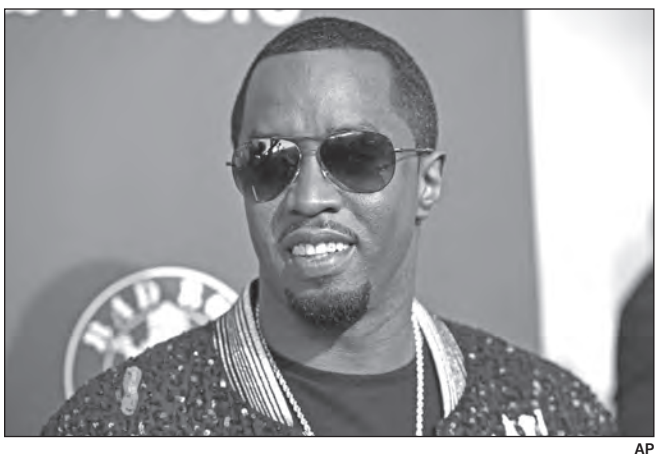
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Security video aired by CNN appears to show Sean "Diddy" Combs attacking singer Cassie in a Los Angeles hotel hallway in 2016, the latest in a monthslong series of public allegations and revelations of physical and sexual violence from the hip-hop mogul.

The video aired Friday appears to show Combs, wearing only a white towel, punching and kicking the R&B singer who was his protege and longtime girlfriend at the time. The footage also shows Combs shoving and dragging Cassie, and throwing a vase in her direction.

The security camera video, dated March 5, 2016, closely resembles the description of an incident at an InterContinental Hotel in the Century City area of Los Angeles described in a November lawsuit filed by Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura, that alleged years of sexual abuse and other violence by Combs.

The lawsuit alleges that Combs paid the hotel $50,000 for the security video. CNN did not say how it obtained the video but noted that it verified the location comparing it to publicly available images of the InterContinental Hotel.

Cassie's lawsuit was settled the day after it was filed but spurred intense scrutiny of Combs, with several more lawsuits filed in the following months, along with a federal criminal sex-trafficking investigation that led authorities to raid Combs' mansions in Los Angeles and Miami.



AP

Sean "Diddy" Combs appears at the premiere of "Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A Bad Boy Story" on June 21, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Representatives for Combs did not immediately comment on the video, but he has previously denied the allegations in the lawsuits, and his lawyers have said he denies any wrongdoing and will fight to prove his innocence.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office said it was aware of the "disturbing" video allegedly depicting Combs assaulting a woman in Los Angeles but it had not been presented with a case. And even if law enforcement presents a case to the office, the statute of limitations would prevent prosecutors from charging Combs, the office said in a statement Friday.

"If the conduct depicted occurred in 2016, unfortunately we would be unable to charge as the conduct would have occurred beyond the timeline where a crime of assault can be prosecuted," the office said.

"We encourage anyone who has been a victim or witness to a crime to report it to law enforcement or reach out to our office for support from our Bureau of Victims Services," it added.

"The gut-wrenching video has only further confirmed the disturbing and predatory behavior of Mr. Combs," said Douglas Wigdor, an attorney for Cassie who has filed other lawsuits against Combs. "Words cannot express the courage and fortitude that Ms. Ventura has shown in coming forward to bring this to light."

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly as Ventura has.

Judge pushes decision to next week on Baldwin's indictment in fatal shooting

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico judge plans to rule next week on a grand jury indictment against Alec Baldwin in the fatal shooting on the set of "Rust," after hearing arguments Friday that the proceedings were unfair to the defendant.

The indictment in January charged Baldwin with involuntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on Oct. 21, 2021, at a movie ranch on the outskirts of Santa Fe.

Baldwin, a lead actor and co-producer on the Western, has pleaded not guilty to the charge, which carries a maximum sentence of 1.5 years in prison. His attorneys argued during the virtual hearing on Friday that the grand jury received a one-sided presentation in bad faith from prosecutors who steered jurors away from exculpatory evidence and witnesses.

During rehearsal, Baldwin was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins when the revolver went off, killing Hutchins and injuring Joel Souza, the director. Baldwin has maintained that he pulled back the gun's hammer, but not the trigger.

Baldwin's motion to dismiss the indictment argued that the grand jury received inaccurate and limited testimony about the revolver and safety protocols on movie sets.

Over more than two hours of arguments Friday, defense attorneys for Baldwin accused the special prosecutor of neglecting her responsibilities to ensure impartiality and access to the defense's witnesses and evidence.

"The fix was in," said defense attorney Alex Spiro. "There were no (defense) witnesses there to testify. There was no evidence binder of the defense exhibits."

"They never intended for the grand jury to ask for witnesses," he continued. "They never wanted the grand jury to ask for exhibits."

Special prosecutors say they followed grand jury protocols and accuse Baldwin of "shameless" attempts to escape culpability, highlighting contradictions in his statements to law enforcement, to workplace safety regulators and in a televised interview. A jury trial is scheduled for July.

Lead prosecutor Kari Morrissey on Friday defended her oversight of the grand jury, noting that she read to jurors a court-approved letter that outlines procedures for accessing exculpatory evidence and witnesses — and that she physically pointed at the defense's boxes of evidence.

Man charged in random assault on Buscemi in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—A man wanted in connection with the random attack on actor Steve Buscemi on a New York City street earlier this month was arrested on an assault charge Friday, police said.

The 66-year-old star of "Boardwalk Empire" and "Fargo" was walking in midtown Manhattan on May 8 when a stranger punched him in the face, city police said. He was taken to a hospital with bruising, swelling and bleeding to his left eye, but was otherwise OK, his publicist said at the time.

Police charged a 50-year-old homeless man with second-degree assault on Friday afternoon in the same precinct where Buscemi was attacked. Authorities announced on Tuesday that they had identified the man as the suspect and were looking for him.

It was not immediately clear if the man had an attorney who could respond to the allegations. A phone message was left at the local public defenders' office.

Buscemi's publicist did not immediately return a message. In previous comments, they said the actor was "another victim of a random act of violence in the city" and that he was OK.

In March, Buscemi's "Boardwalk Empire" co-star Michael Stuhlbarg was hit in the back of the neck with a rock while walking in Manhattan's Central Park. Stuhlbarg chased his attacker, who was taken into custody outside the park.

Young adult eyes new path for happiness and support

DEAR ABBY: I'm new to the LGBTQ+ community and finding it tough. I'm torn between living a happy life or being around my family, who don't 100% accept me as bisexual/asexual and involved with a transgender female. My new partner and I are happy together, but my family doesn't approve that I'm finally feeling happy and accepted by someone who values me for me.

My partner and I want to eventually move to another state where we can live a happier life together, if and when the time comes. I want to live free from stress and drama. I battle daily with bad triggers in my personal life with no escape. How can I be happy and have my family support me, even if it doesn't make them happy?

BI MILLENNIAL IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR BI MILLENNIAL: You have a right to a stress-free life. Because your given family isn't accepting, you may have to build a chosen family for yourself. If you live in a community with a LGBTQ community center—or one nearby—start by contacting it. If you don't, go online and find a LGBTQ+ support group to help you through this.

Another source of support for yourself and your partner would be PFLAG, (pflag.org). It also helps bridge the gap in families struggling to communicate and understand gay, bi and transgender family members. With education comes understanding. If, however, this isn't possible, the healthiest thing for you to do would be to move to a place where you can feel accepted for who you are.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I've been with my husband for 15 years, married for seven. We've had our fair share of problems. Between the two of us, we have four girls. He has two from a previous marriage, I have one from a previous relationship, and we share one together.

His eldest daughter is the problem. The youngest two live with us; the other two are adults who live outside the home. The eldest is very into herself and always has been. She loves to hear herself talk, and it is always about herself. She's not as bad as she was when she was younger, but it still bothers me. My husband doesn't seem to mind, but I find it annoying.

She has a son, so I don't think she should be talking only about herself. My reaction toward her has caused problems between my husband and me. My question is, how do I deal with a 30-year-old who is like this?

HUMBLE LADY IN TEXAS

DEAR LADY: You may consider yourself to be "humble," but the impression you have left me with is that you have a tendency to be controlling and judgmental. That you feel you have the right to script another adult is presumptuous.

While you may consider your husband's oldest daughter to be a crashing bore, it doesn't give you the right to act on your annoyance. You don't have to love her. You don't have to see her often. Sometimes, you can arrange to be elsewhere. But when you do see her, be cordial and try to steer the conversation toward the topic of her son and his activities.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

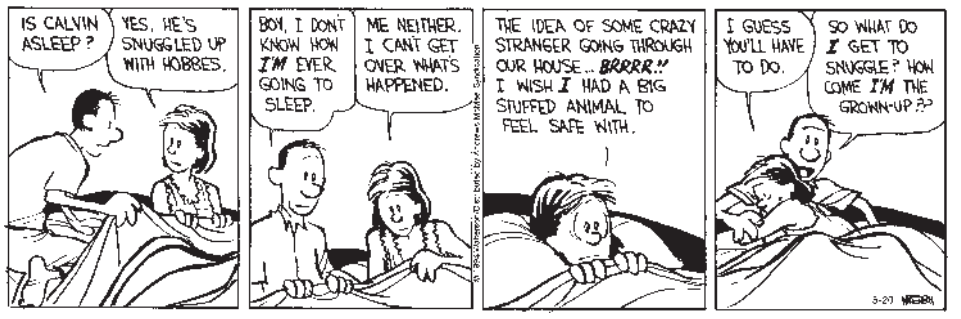
DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

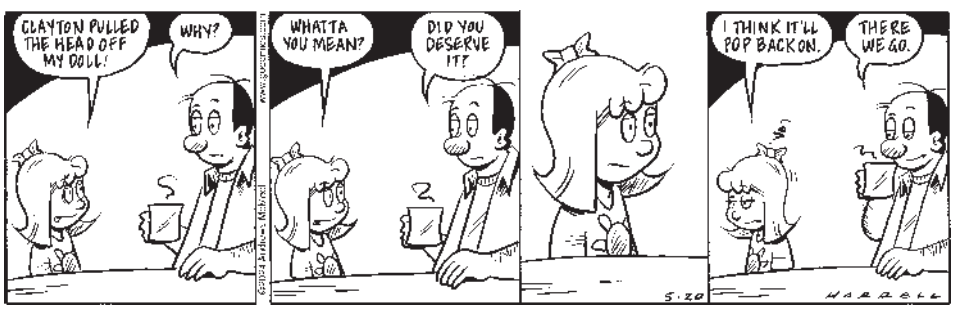

IS CALVIN ASLEEP?
YES. HE'S SNUGGLED UP WITH HOBBES.
BOY, I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M EVER GOING TO SLEEP.
ME NEITHER. I CAN'T GET OVER WHAT'S HAPPENED.
THE IDEA OF SOME CRAZY STRANGER GOING THROUGH OUR HOUSE... BRRRR!! I WISH I HAD A BIG STUFFED ANIMAL TO FEEL SAFE WITH.
I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO DO.
SO WHAT DO I GET TO SNUGGLE? HOW COME I'M THE GROWN-UP?!?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

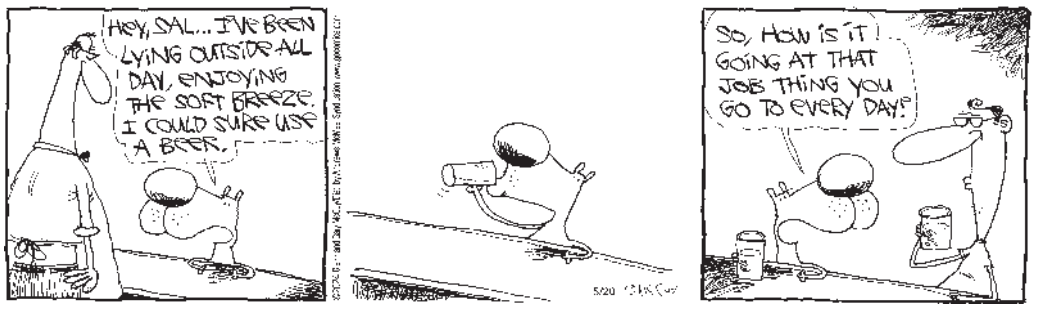
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HEY, SAL... I'VE BEEN LYING OUTSIDE ALL DAY, ENJOYING THE SOFT BREEZE. I COULD SURE USE A BEER.
SO, HOW IS IT GOING AT THAT JOBS THING YOU GO TO EVERY DAY?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Couch
5 Corn core
8 Flair
12 "Munich" actor
14 Ponder
15 Lovingly cared for
16 French cheese
17 Anger
18 Balm of —
20 Being litigious
23 "— hiring!" (new store sign)
24 Male deer
25 Wyoming city
28 Pester
29 Fishing rods
30 506, in old Rome
32 Helpless
34 Consider
35 Bowlers and fedoras
36 Eye drops
37 Peaceful state
40 Pouch
41 Yale students
42 Provided
47 Help in a crime
48 Avoidances
49 GI dining hall
50 MBA or Ph.D
51 Horn sound

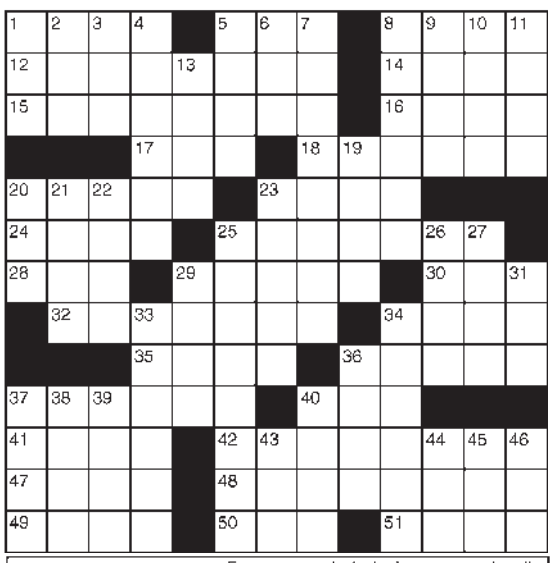
DOWN

1 Religious sch.
2 Spanish gold
3 In shape
4 Sore
5 Give a hoot
6 Count start
7 Heckled
8 Insignia
9 Entice
10 Europe's neighbor
11 Must have
13 Titanic destroyer
19 401(k) relatives
20 Nine-digit ID
21 Nevada neighbor
22 "Othello" villain
23 Cardiff's country
25 Hung around
26 Concept
27 Always
29 School support orgs.
31 Online chats, briefly
33 Specters
34 Duplicity
36 Tiny amounts
37 500 sheets
38 North Sea feeder
39 Slapstick arsenal
40 Unforeseen problem
43 Cain's mom
44 Kanga's kid
45 Rock producer Brian
46 "Spring ahead" hrs.

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	R	S		C	A	K	Y		T	R	A	M
A	R	T		A	I	D	F		H	O	I	A
H	A	R	D	P	A	S	S		R	O	M	P
			O	U	R	S			P	U	M	A	S
J	U	N	T	A		B	Y	E	S			
O	R	G	Y		B	L	O	W	H	A	R	D
S	S	F		S	O	A	R	S		I	O	U
H	A	R	D	W	O	R	K		F	R	M	A
			R	I	T	E		M	A	H	A	L
C	R	E	A	M			L	A	C	E		
L	C	R	I		R	O	C	K	H	A	R	D
A	S	I	N		O	L	D	E		D	I	E
M	A	C	S		B	E	S	S		S	O	N

Last Friday's answer 5-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matt Czuchry, 47; Tony Stewart, 53; Tony Goldwyn, 64; Cher, 78.

Happy Birthday: You can progress if you dedicate time to making changes that comply with your lifestyle. Take responsibility for your happiness, and opportunities will unfold. Think big and believe in your ability to get things done your way. Refrain from doing what others want or taking on issues that don't belong to you. Take pride in your ability to march to your own beat. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 29, 32, 41, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Emotions will give you the boost you need to follow through with your plans but also cause an unsavory situation with anyone who disagrees. Put together a foolproof plan before discussing your intentions to gain support and help you reach your goal. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Dream, believe and make it happen. Take control and be optimistic, and opportunities will be yours. Don't hesitate or give someone a chance to step in and take over. Trust your instincts and ability to get things done to your specifications and on time. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take care of matters yourself. Relying on others will lead to disappointment or setbacks. Eliminate bureaucratic pressure before it causes undue stress. Stay on top of financial, medical and legal issues. A physical lifestyle change is in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Reach out, and you'll receive help. Stay within the call of duty when addressing your needs, and it will give you the boost to ward off negativity and interference. Use your imagination and do what's best for you. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Trust and act on what you verify. Be a leader, and you will have the power to make better decisions. Put your energy into what you can do to make your life better. Having a strong presence will prevent others from taking advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be receptive to change, learn from the experience and believe in yourself enough to confidently move forward. Your attitude will set the stage for what's to come. Voice your opinion and team up with people who share your concerns. Love and a healthy lifestyle are favored. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't fold under pressure. Pay attention and make decisions that benefit you. Don't let emotions lead to false hope when dealing with money matters or health. Search for reasonable possibilities, and manufacture what you want to unfold. An unexpected gain will help you become stable. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let your creativity take over, and you'll discover an original idea that helps you flourish. A change of heart will offer clarity and vision of what's possible. Look for opportunities, and open doors that lead to peace of mind and the lifestyle you envision. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Adjust whatever is between you and how you want to spend your day. Don't let anyone confuse you or push you toward something that benefits them more than you. Put your energy where it makes the most sense and directs you positively. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't let anger set in when your energy, put to good use, will offer the strength and courage to create opportunities. A receptive and positive attitude will provide access to information that promotes turning your passion into something concrete. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Slow down and rethink a situation impacting your life. A domestic issue will require insight, discipline and understanding. Establish what will make your life easier or more convenient, and research the best way to achieve your objective. Strive for perfection and stick to your budget. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Scour the internet for information and decide what you want to do next. Striving for a healthy attitude and lifestyle will put your mind at ease and help you accept the changes you face. Make the most of the journey and discover peace and new beginnings. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, caring and deliberate. You are steadfast and conforming.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	6			8		4	9	5
2		9		3	5	8	6	1
	8	5		6			3	
4			8		7			3
			6					8
	7		5					6
	1		2			5	8	
	2		4	1			7	
	9		3	5			1	2

Difficulty: ★ 5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

2	8	4	7	1	5	6	3	9
9	7	5	2	6	3	1	4	8
6	1	3	9	8	4	5	2	7
4	2	8	6	3	7	9	5	1
5	6	7	1	4	9	3	8	2
3	9	1	8	5	2	4	7	6
8	4	6	5	2	1	7	9	3
7	5	2	3	9	6	8	1	4
1	3	9	4	7	8	2	6	5

Difficulty: ★★★★ 5/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GESTURES **Solution: 5 letters**

E	G	F	I	D	G	E	T	I	N	G	R	A	N	D
E	X	R	S	E	C	N	A	H	N	E	R	A	T	S
T	V	P	E	A	S	T	C	E	N	N	O	C	S	N
C	R	I	R	E	T	U	G	E	V	A	W	M	C	O
A	O	B	S	E	T	A	O	Y	H	H	R	H	O	I
R	M	C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	A	T	E	M	T
E	A	S	O	S	E	S	N	S	T	E	N	A	M	O
T	N	Y	E	R	S	F	I	G	N	R	G	D	U	M
N	T	M	L	I	D	Ⓒ	F	O	S	F	U	U	N	E
I	I	B	K	E	Ⓛ	I	H	O	N	I	R	O	I	C
E	C	O	S	Ⓐ	V	P	A	O	M	N	H	F	C	N
E	H	L	Ⓟ	M	E	O	D	L	R	G	S	I	A	A
R	I	I	B	L	I	S	L	D	E	E	D	S	T	L
G	N	C	E	M	E	L	B	M	E	R	S	T	E	G
A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E	T	A	C	I	D	N	I

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Agree, Arms, Attitude, Chin, Chores, Clap, Communicate, Connect, Considerate, Cordial, Courteous, Deeds, Emblem, Embrace, Emotions, Enhances, Expression, Eyes, Fidgeting, Finger, Fist, Glance, Grand, Greetings, Hand, Head, Indicate, Interact, Kiss, Lovely, Message, Nods, Offensive, Romantic, Shrug, Smile, Stare, Symbolic, Telephone, Wave

Last Friday's answer : Account

The NEW **Volume 77** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Washington's FTs finish rally as Mavs beat Thunder to reach West finals

AP

Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic celebrates the teams win in Game 6 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Oklahoma City Thunder Saturday, May 18, 2024, in Dallas.

DALLAS (AP)—Kyrie Irving probably wondered if his uncanny run of closeout victories without a loss in his career was finally near an end.

The streak lives, and the Dallas Mavericks are through to the Western Conference semifinals for the second time in three seasons.

P.J. Washington Jr. made two free throws before an intentional miss with 2.5 seconds left as the Mavs rallied from 17 points down in the second half for a 117-116 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder to finish the second-round series Saturday night.

The Mavericks wrapped up the series in Game 6 at home against the top-seeded Thunder, just as they did in the first round against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Dallas—which trailed by 17 in the third quarter, 12 late in the third quarter and nine early in the fourth—will start the West finals at the Denver-Minnesota winner on Wednesday night.

"Being down 17 in a closeout game isn't a position you want to be in," said Irving, who is now 14-0 in such games and will play in the conference finals for the first time since 2017 with Cleveland. "But that's where we found ourselves. We had to respond the way we've been responding all season."

Washington was fouled by Shai Gilgeous-Alexander on a 3-point attempt after Chet Holmgren put the Thunder in front 116-115 with a dunk on an assist from his star guard with 20 seconds remaining.

Luka Doncic, who had 29 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his fourth triple-double this postseason, worked his way to the basket in the final seconds before passing to Washington in the corner. Washington pump-faked to get Gilgeous-Alexander in the air and the whistle blew as the shot fell short.

Oklahoma City challenged the ball, but replay showed Gilgeous-Alexander making contact with Washington's arm as he went up to shoot.

"Obviously if I had the moment back I wouldn't have fouled him," said Gilgeous-Alexander, who had a playoff career high with 36 points. "I would have just let him miss the shot. You wish you would take the moment back. Just have to learn from it, and I will."

After making the first two free throws to put Dallas in front, Washington missed on purpose with the Thunder out of timeouts after the challenge. Holmgren passed to Jalen Williams, whose desperation shot from well behind half court wasn't close.

"If it was a clear-as-day foul, I obviously wouldn't have challenged it and held the timeout," Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault said. "Even if you advance the ball with 2.5 seconds at a deficit, your chances are very low."

The final sequence capped a riveting fourth quarter with five lead changes and two ties in the final five minutes after the Thunder led for all but one minute until then.

Irving and Derrick Jones Jr. scored 22 points apiece for Dallas. It was the second consecutive game with a playoff career high for Jones.

"It wasn't Luka or Kai making the game-winner," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said. "It was the trust of Luka and the ball touches the paint, they collapse, he trusted P.J. We find a way to win."

Washington—the second-leading scorer for Dallas in this series, ahead of Irving—didn't have a point until the fourth quarter. He scored nine, with tying and go-ahead 3s before the winning free throws.

"I think we just stay together," Doncic said. "We always talk on the bench, stay together, positive energy. And today was a good example of it."

Doncic didn't have Irving when he led the Mavs to the West finals in 2022, when Dallas lost to defending champ Golden State in five games.

The first two months of the Doncic-Irving pairing after the blockbuster deal last year were a dud for the players now with 13 All-Star appearances between them. More trade-deadline moves this year from general manager Nico Harrison worked this time.

The Mavericks finished 24-9 to rise to fifth in the West and ousted the Clippers in the first round with the same sequence of wins and losses that beat Oklahoma City.

The Thunder lost four out of five games following a 5-0 start to the playoffs.

Led by the MVP runner-up in Gilgeous-Alexander and two more key pieces of a young core in Williams and Holmgren, Oklahoma City tied defending champion Denver for the best record in the West at 57-25.

Williams had 22 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as the Thunder were ousted. Holmgren scored 21.

Just two seasons ago, the Thunder finished 24-58 in a second consecutive year of fewer than 25 victories.

Daigneault's playoff debut came in his fourth season, and the first-round sweep of New Orleans was the franchise's first series victory since reaching the West finals in 2016.

"You don't accomplish what we accomplished without tremendous resilience and the ability to throw punches with our talent, with the way we play and then take punches," Daigneault said. "And tonight we took a lot of punches, and we did ... and we took a lead into the last 20 seconds of that game."

Nets will retire Vince Carter's No. 15 jersey

NEW YORK (AP)—The Brooklyn Nets are retiring the No. 15 jersey of Vince Carter, the high-flying guard who will be enshrined this year in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Nets made the video announcement Wednesday that included former backcourt mate Jason Kidd, whose No. 5 jersey is retired by the franchise.

Carter played 4 1/2 seasons with the Nets while they were in New Jersey, averaging 23.6 points. He owns their single-season record with 2,070 points in the 2006-07 season.

Carter is third in franchise history in points and is in the Nets' top 10 in numerous other categories.

He is the only player in NBA history to play in four decades. The NBA Rookie of the Year in 1999 with the Toronto Raptors, he was dealt by the Raptors to New Jersey on Dec. 17, 2004, and played with the Nets through the 2008-09 season. His last season, 2019-2020, was with the Atlanta Hawks.

Carter will become the seventh Nets player with a retired jersey. Along with Kidd, the others are Julius Erving, Buck Williams, Drazen Petrovic, "Super" John Williamson and Bill Melchionni.

Budenholzer reminisces on Arizona past, but quickly turns to future leading Phoenix Suns

PHOENIX (AP)—Mike Budenholzer got a little teary-eyed talking about his past in Arizona, describing an idyllic childhood in the small town of Holbrook, about three hours northeast of Phoenix.

Those tears dried up in a hurry when talking about his future.

"It's mind-boggling to me, like mind-blowing, to think that I'm going to be the head coach of the Phoenix Suns," Budenholzer said on Friday during an introductory press conference in downtown Phoenix.

The 54-year-old Budenholzer replaces Frank Vogel, who was fired on May 9 after one disappointing season. The two-time NBA coach of the year will be charged with getting more out of the team's All-Star trio of Kevin Durant, Devin Booker and Bradley Beal as the franchise continues its chase for a championship.

The group never quite meshed last season under Vogel, finishing with a 49-33 record before getting swept by Minnesota in the first round of the playoffs.

"I'm excited about working with this roster and these players," Budenholzer said. "We have great players. And with great players come great expectations. I think we embrace that."

Budenholzer spoke on Friday in front of a few dozen family and friends, including his 94-year-old dad Vince, who Mike called "the original coach Bud." The younger Budenholzer won the 2021 NBA title while leading the Milwaukee Bucks — a championship that came at the expense of the Suns.

Phoenix has never won a title, advancing to the Finals three times in 56 seasons.

Budenholzer was fired by the Bucks in 2023 after five seasons and didn't coach in the NBA this past season. He also coached the Atlanta Hawks from 2013 to 2018 and has a 484-317 record over 10 seasons.

Before he went to Atlanta, Budenholzer spent 17 years as an assistant for the San Antonio Spurs and coach Gregg Popovich.

"This year, for me, was really healthy," Budenholzer said. "I kind of had a list of priorities, diving into my kids and my family, super important. We've been through a lot. So really, the time with my kids was just amazing. My son's a senior in high school—going to every one of his games—driving home you're like 'Wow, I got a gift."

As much as he loved the chance to recharge, he's ready to get back on the court.

"I'd like to keep coaching as much and as long as I can," he added.

Now the difficult work begins to reshape a Suns roster. Phoenix doesn't have much room to manuver under the league's salary cap because of the big contracts for Booker, Durant and Beal. The team's other two projected starters—Grayson Allen and Jusuf Nurkic—are also under contract for next season.

The Suns didn't have a true point guard last season and struggled with turnovers, particularly in the fourth quarter. Budenholzer made it sound like he'd like to add at least one point guard during the offseason.

"The conversations have been great and there's no doubt that we need to look at the whole roster and talk about point guard," Budenholzer said. "I'm sure it's a hot-button issue here, whether it's with the media, players or the front office. We need to think about it.

"We need to be able to play without one. We probably need to be able to have one. We need to be versatile—play different ways."

But before he starts thinking about point guards or turnovers, the coach spent much of Friday savoring his chance at a dream job.

"The biggest message I want you to hear is that I would coach this team if it was on the moon," Budenholzer said, grinning. "I would coach this team if it was in Alaska. If these players were in Denmark. ... I would go anywhere to coach this team."

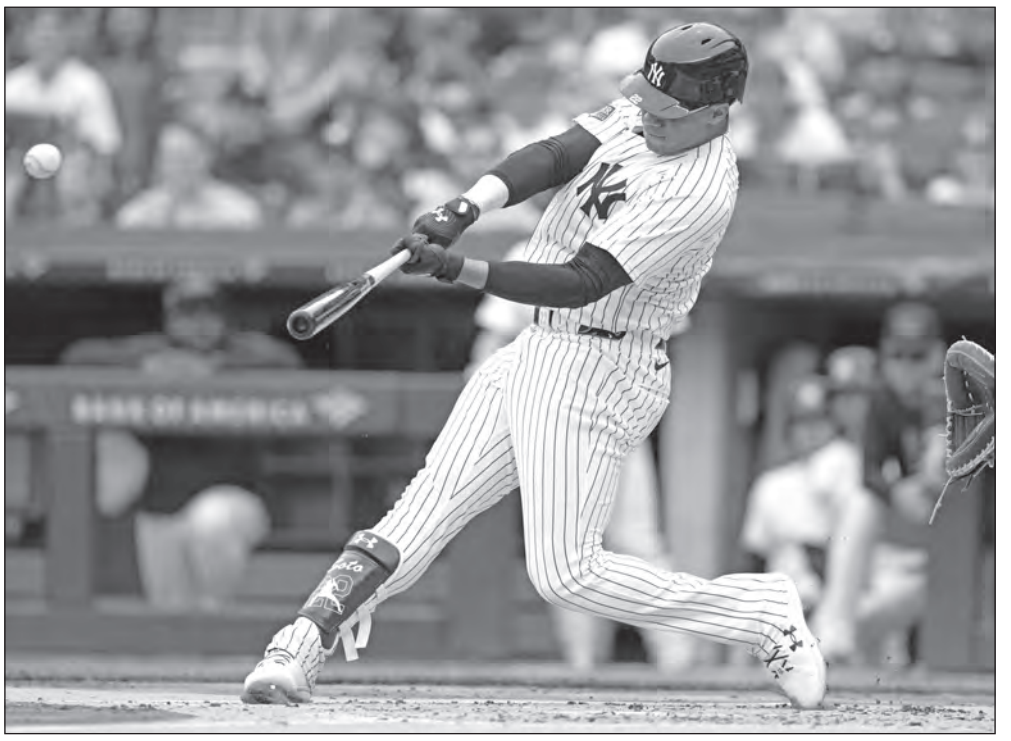
Yankees extend win streak to 6, Soto homers twice in win over White Sox

NEW YORK (AP) — Juan Soto had his first multihomer game with the Yankees, Luis Gil struck out a career-high 14 and New York beat the Chicago White Sox 6-1 on Saturday to extend its winning streak to a season-high six games.

Giancarlo Stanton and Jose Trevino also went deep for New York, which has won 12 of 14 and improved to an AL-best 32-15. Soto was 4 for 4 with a walk and is batting .317 with 11 homers and 37 RBIs.

New York is 12-2-1 in series, matching 2002 as the only times since 1950 the Yankees have won 12 of their first 15 series.

Soto tied the score in the first with a 417-foot drive deep into the right-field bleachers, had an RBI single in the second and hit another solo shot in the fifth with a 437-footer deeper into the right-field bleachers. It was the 18th multihomer game for Soto, who combined with Stanton and Aaron Judge to make New York the first team this year with a trio of double-digit home run hitters.



AP

New York Yankees' Juan Soto hits a home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox, Saturday, May 18, 2024, in New York.

CUBS 1, PIRATES 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Christopher Morel singled in Cody Bellinger with one out in the ninth to give Chicago a win over Pittsburgh.

Bellinger got the winning rally started with a ground-rule double down the left-field line with one out off David Bednar. Morel then cracked a 3-2 pitch up the middle, and Bellinger narrowly beat Michael A. Taylor's throw to the plate on a play that withstood a video review.

Hector Neris (4-0) tossed a perfect ninth, striking out two, for the win.

Cubs starter Shota Imanaga tossed seven scoreless innings of four-hit ball in his third straight no-decision. The 30-year-old left-hander from Japan struck out seven and walked one as he threw 68 of 88 pitches for strikes.

Mark Leiter Jr. followed with a perfect eighth, striking out the side.

RAYS 5, BLUE JAYS 4

TORONTO (AP)—Jonny DeLuca hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth inning and Tampa Bay overcame a four-run deficit to beat Toronto for their 11th win in 15 games.

Yandy Díaz reached base five times and Amed Rosario hit a two-run single for the Rays, who have won four of five series.

Erasmo Ramírez (3-0) worked one inning for the win, Jason Adam pitched the eighth and Garrett Cleavinger finished for his third save in three chances.

Four of Tampa Bay's past six games have been decided by a single run. The others were two-run decisions.

GIANTS 14, ROCKIES 4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Luis Matos hit a three-run homer and had a career-high six RBIs to continue his hot streak, Matt Chapman went 4 for 4 and scored three runs and San Francisco used 18 hits to rout Colorado.

The Giants have won three straight for the first time this season. They were the last team in the majors without a win streak of three or more games.

Matos, who drove in five runs Friday night, has RBIs in his last six games and set a franchise record with 17 RBIs in his first six games of the season with a plate appearance. With Jung Hoo Lee out for the season, the 22-year-old Matos figures to keep seeing playing time in center field. He also took away a potential extra-base hit from Ezequiel Tovar with a leaping grab in the fifth.

MARLINS 10, METS 9, 10 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP)—Josh Bell hit a tying homer off Edwin Díaz in a four-run ninth inning, the latest costly meltdown by the struggling New York closer, and Otto Lopez singled home the winning run in the 10th as Miami rallied for a victory.

Lopez grounded a single up the middle off Jorge López (1-1) through a drawn-in infield to score automatic runner Christian Bethancourt from third, and the last-place Marlins stretched their winning streak to a season-best four games.

Miami was down 9-5 in the ninth before Jazz Chisholm Jr. singled off Díaz to drive in Vidal Brujan, who led off with a double. Bryan De La Cruz reached on an infield single with one out, and Bell hammered Díaz's first-pitch slider 428 feet to straightaway center field for a three-run shot that tied it.

Tanner Scott (3-4) picked up the win by pitching a scoreless 10th.

GUARDIANS 11, TWINS 4

CLEVELAND (AP)—José Ramírez homered and had three RBIs and Logan Allen pitched six strong innings, sending Cleveland to a romp over Minnesota, who lost their fifth straight and remained in an offensive funk.

Ramírez hit a two-run homer in the first inning off Bailey Ober (4-2) and added an RBI double and single on the same night the Guardians celebrated their All-Star third baseman with a bobblehead giveaway.

Needing a triple for the cycle—Cleveland's lone one at home came in 1933—Ramírez popped to second in the sixth and grounded to first in the seventh.

Tyler Freeman had a career-high four hits and also drove in three runs as the AL Central-leading Guardians moved a season-best 12 games over .500.

ROYALS 5, ATHLETICS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Seth Lugo struck out 10 and earned his American League-leading seventh victory as Kansas City beat Oakland.

The Royals improved to 28-19, nine games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2015 season, when they went on to win the World Series. Kansas City also claimed its eighth series win of the season, a mark the Royals didn't reach until mid-September in 2023.

Oakland lost its seventh straight game, the A's longest skid of the season.

PHILLIES 4, NATIONALS 3, 10 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper hit a game-winning sacrifice fly in the 10th inning after Kody Clemens tied it with a home run with two outs in the ninth, lifting Philadelphia to a victory over Washington.

Bryson Stott also homered for Philadelphia, which has won or split each of its last 14 series. The Phillies (33-14) have the most wins in baseball and will go for the three-game series sweep on Sunday.

CJ Abrams and Ildemaro Vargas each had three hits for the Nationals, who have lost four straight and six of seven.

With runners on second and third and one out in the 10th, Harper drove a 1-2 splitter from Washington closer Kyle Finnegan (1-3) into center field to drive in Johan Rojas. The two-time MVP threw both hands in the air when he reached first base, where he was mobbed by teammates.

BREWERS 4, ASTROS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—William Contreras hit a go-ahead three-run homer off Justin Verlander in the fifth inning to give Milwaukee Brewers a win over Houston.

The Brewers trailed by 1 when Joey Ortiz singled to start the fifth before Verlander (2-2) walked Sal Frelick and Jackson Chourio to load the bases. Milwaukee tied it when Ortiz scored on a sacrifice fly by Blake Perkins.

There were two outs in the inning when Contreras sent Verlander's 13th pitch of the at-bat to center field to put the Brewers on top 4-1 and chase the three-time Cy Young Award winner.

Verlander yielded four hits and four runs in 4 2/3 innings. He struck out three Saturday to give him 3,368 career strikeouts, to pass Max Scherzer (3,367) for 11th on the all-time list.

Jake Meyers had two hits with a solo homer for the Astros, whose season-long six game winning streak was snapped.

MARINERS 4, ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Cal Raleigh and Dylan Moore hit RBI doubles in the eighth inning, capping a comeback that gave Seattle a victory over Baltimore.

The tight contest between AL contenders was delayed at the start by rain for nearly three hours and featured solid pitching by Baltimore's Grayson Rodriguez and three-time All-Star Luis Castillo.

Rodriguez returned from the injured list to allow one hit over six innings before leaving with a 2-0 lead.

The advantage vanished in the seventh, when the Mariners pulled even against Baltimore's bullpen with three hits, including an RBI double by Ty France to end a 12-pitch at-bat.

Seattle then took the lead in the eighth against Yennier Cano (2-2). Raleigh made it 3-2 with a double to left-center, and Moore sent Raleigh home with a liner to left off Cionel Pérez.

CARDINALS 7, RED SOX 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Gorman homered early and added an RBI single during a five-run eighth inning that propelled St. Louis to a victory against Boston.

Nolan Arenado, Alec Burleson, Iván Herrera and Gorman hit consecutive singles to start the eighth against Justin Slaten (2-1) as St. Louis immediately reclaimed the lead after the Red Sox pulled even in the top of the inning.

Arenado went from first to third on Burleson's single to right field, then scored the go-ahead run when Herrera followed with a sharp grounder to left through the drawn-in Red Sox infield. Gorman tacked on an RBI single before Masyn Winn's sacrifice fly pushed the lead to 5-2. Two more runs scored when right fielder Rob Refsnyder misplayed Lars Nootbaar's RBI single for an error.

DODGERS 4, REDS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Walker Buehler pitched six sharp innings with seven strikeouts in his third start since returning from Tommy John surgery, leading Los Angeles to a victory over Cincinnati.

Freddie Freeman had two hits and drove in a run for the Dodgers, who have won 18 of 24 games to surge 7 1/2 games ahead of San Diego atop the NL West. Teoscar Hernández and Andy Pages also had run-scoring hits for Los Angeles.

Buehler (1-1) yielded three hits and no walks in a dominant performance to earn his first major league victory since May 24, 2022. After looking somewhat shaky and wild in his first two starts back from his second Tommy John procedure, the two-time All-Star controlled his breaking pitches against Cincinnati and rediscovered the form he has usually shown when healthy during his first six seasons with the Dodgers.

Buehler and his three relievers combined on a three-hitter, with the bullpen pitching three perfect innings.

RANGERS 3, ANGELS 2, 13 INNINGS

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Nathaniel Lowe was hit by a pitch from Carson Fulmer with the bases loaded in the 13th inning, forcing home the winning run as Texas outlasted Los Angeles.

Lowe tied the score with a sacrifice fly in the eighth. Adolis García homered in the sixth for the Rangers (24-23), who won for the third time in 10 games. The defending World Series champions have never been under .500 since Bruce Bochy took over as manager before last season.

TIGERS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Wenceel Pérez hit a three-run triple to break open a close game and Jack Flaherty picked up his first victory of the season as Detroit rallied to beat Arizona.

Detroit scored six runs—all with two outs—in the seventh inning to take a 6-2 lead. Flaherty (1-3), who had pitched well most of the season, seemed headed for another defeat before the Tigers mounted their comeback.

Pérez had two triples, Javier Báez had four hits and the Tigers got 11 of their 15 hits in the last three innings to take the first two games of the three-game series.

Until the sixth it was a pitchers' duel between Flaherty and Zac Gallen. Each struck out six in the first three innings.

9 playoff rematches include Ravens-Chiefs and Rams-Lions on opening week

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

AP

New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers walks the field before an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Even though the Super Bowl rematch between the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers will not occur until almost the midpoint of the season, NFL fans will be treated to a pair of playoff rematches on the opening weekend.

Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs begin their quest for an unprecedented third straight Super Bowl title when they host the Baltimore Ravens on Sept. 5 in the Kickoff Game while the Los Angeles Rams are at the Detroit Lions in the Sunday night game on Sept. 8.

The two playoff rematches on Week 1 are among nine on this year's regular schedule, which was released by the league Wednesday night.

The Ravens-Chiefs matchup is a rematch of last season's AFC championship game, won by Kansas City 17-10. Kansas City heads to San Francisco in Oct. 20, after it defeated the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in the second overtime game in Super Bowl history. It also marks the second straight season the Chiefs will have a Super Bowl rematch after they lost to the Philadelphia Eagles in a Monday night game last season.

Kansas City will then travel to Buffalo on Nov. 17 in what is becoming a yearly matchup. This will be the fifth straight year the two teams have faced off in the regular season. The Bills have won three straight in the regular season but the Chiefs have won all three in the playoffs.

The Rams' Matthew Stafford and Detroit's Jared Goff will face their former teams for the third time, including the playoffs. The Lions won their first playoff game in 32 years when they defeated the Rams 24-23 in an NFC wild-card round game.

Goff recently agreed to a four-year, $212 million contract extension.

The rematch of the NFC championship game between the 49ers and Lions won't happen until Dec. 30 in San Francisco, which is the last Monday night game of the season.

After the Rams game, the Lions host Tampa Bay on Sept. 15 in a rematch of a divisional round game won by Detroit.

The other playoff rematches are Baltimore at Houston on Christmas Day, Philadelphia at Tampa Bay on Sept. 29 and San Francisco at Green Bay on Nov. 24.

ROLLERS

From page 16

LEIGH GASES

Champions 670 Rollers pose for a group photo with their head coach Joe Diaz, far left, and assistant coach John Paul Cruz after their championship game against Madflex in the 2024 Pokka Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

deadlocked as ties and 1-point margins that seesawed ruled the game. It was never really a far game throughout as both teams immediately replied to the other in a give and take matchup.

Madflex carried just a 3-point lead heading out of the first half and four-points out of the third quarter, as the 670 Rollers were always right behind them and breathing down their necks.

But the momentum shifted and favored the Rollers heavily with five minutes left as they wore down Jezpher Navarro and the rest of the Madflex team. Once the Rollers snagged the lead as the game soon came to a conclusion, they held it down and didn't give it up.

The Rollers' Elijah Ye and Kian Helgen then came in clutch in crunch time as they wore down the fatigued and injury riddled Madflex team. Both team's lead never reached double digits and it all came down to who can execute their attempts with mere seconds to go.

A huge 3-pointer from Ye put the Rollers up, 72-70 with less than 30 seconds left, and it was just uphill for them, while it went downhill for Madflex.

Madflex went into survival mode as they attempted 3-pointers to get the edge over the Rollers once more but to no avail. In the end, 6 points went unanswered as fast-break plays by Helgen gobbled up the time clock and eventually sealed the championship for the Rollers.

For the Rollers, Heman Addy led the team with 24 points, while Helgen put up 17 points, and Ye scored 14. Madflex's Navarro claimed a game-high 28 markers, while Christian Lucero contributed 20, and Onick Ragbonshe scored 12.

Rollers assistant coach John Paul Cruz said after the finals that the matchup was intense, but their hard work paid off. "Our team fought really hard and so did theirs. It was really tough. There were some heartbreaks and some celebrations, but at the end of the day, we all represent one island, so I'm proud of everyone that played in this championship," he said.

As for the season overall, Cruz said, "It was up and down, but we managed to pull through the end together as a team."

The 670 Rollers was coached by CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Joe Diaz.

For Helgen, he said that their opponents played hard, but that it's okay because, "our team played harder and that's how we won." As for how it feels winning the championship, he said, "It feels good. I already knew we were going to win."

The Pokka Cup awards ceremony will be held together with the 2024 Michelob Cup awards ceremony after the championship game on June 1.

670 Rollers 76 – Addy 24, Helgen 17, Ye 14, Tengco 12, Mercado Jr. 7, Defang 2.

Madflex 70 – Navarro 28, Lucero 20, Ragbonshe 12, Sanchez 6, Ansus 2, Gutierrez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-20, 35-38, 54-58, 76-70.

HAUL

From page 16

captained by John Stewart.

In the awards ceremony at the Smiling Cove Marina, Jolene captain Alex Sablan said that birthday boy Taylor, who turned 32 that day, called it before the derby that he would reel in a marlin for his birthday, and that he did later in the day.

Sablan then thanked Tasi to Table for putting on the first CNMI "Reel Heroes" International Fishing Derby; thanked the real heroes—U.S. military veterans, and thanked his crew, Amanda Hayes, his wife Jolene, who the boat is named after, and Jeff Taylor and Luther Taylor.

"Thank you again to everyone and we're happy to win," said Sablan. As for the weather throughout the derby, he said, "It was pretty nasty, but it was fun."

Tasi to Table president Gene Weaver said in an interview after the ceremony that "overall, the support was amazing."

The derby, he said, was for veterans. Also last Saturday, the U.S. celebrated Armed Forces Day. During the derby, there was supposed to be a commemorative fly-over, but due to unforeseen circumstances, it was canceled.

As for the unpredictable weather, Weaver said that the waters were "a little choppy, but it was fishable. The only time I'm going to postpone a tournament is if there was a Small Craft Advisory."

"I thank all of my sponsors who came in and supported this event," said Weaver. The derby was for catching billfish only, with only two boats catching marlins—hence only first and second place. "We wanted to start small, and gradually grow so next year it'll be a lot bigger."

Sponsors of the derby were the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Black Micro Corp., Saipan Mayor's Office, Budweiser, KKPM, Saipan Select, and JEM Co. Ltd. Mobil Station.

GOAL

From page 16

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

During one of their practices last Thursday, team manager Derron Flores and some players were interviewed on the state of the team so far and said that their goal is to go for the gold.

He also said that the Micro Games exposure for their first fast pitch team in years is a good stepping stone for the Pacific Mini Games in Palau next year.

Flores said the team was hand-picked from school/adult softball leagues and put together earlier this year. They started their practices in January after getting the green light and confirming that fast pitch softball is one of the sports offered in the Micro Games.

The NMI team ranges from the youngest player in high school at 14 years old, to athletes with regional/international competition experience in other sports.

Flores then shared what he told the team. "I told the girls you're going in as ambassadors. You're carrying that flag and there's a lot of weight on your shoulders," he said. "We also don't know if these girls will be here on the island and have the opportunity to play next year, so that's why they're happy to be selected. They're treating it as something big for them because it's a once in a lifetime opportunity," Flores added.

With a month away before competition they will not take any teams lightly. "We'll go there one game at a time and play NMI baseball. Their chemistry is right there."

He added, "I would like to thank the community. Everybody's supporting and rooting for the whole Team Marianas delegation and we're gonna do our best and bring back medals. We were hoping there were going to be six teams, but with only four there's more chances for us to medal… we're here for a mission."

Flores also called for the community's continued support for not only the fast pitch team, but also the NMI delegation as a whole.

"We know that NMI is struggling with our economy and all that, but please, if they can come out, come and visit our athletes or any kind of support would help Team Marianas in general. We want to go and rep our flag", he said.

For team captain Kianu Aldan, she said with about a month out until competition, "We feel nervous because it's a big event, but we feel confident in the team." With that, she said they are looking forward to bagging the gold medal. "That's what we want. That's what we're going there for."

She added, "I believe in our team from the get-go. We've been working here and kicking it. It's a month left and we're excited to go already." On representing NMI as the first fast pitch team in a while, she said, "it feels good because we're the first in God knows how long... I'm so grateful for the coaching staff because they're really helping us prepare."

Maiyah Duenas, for her part, said that so far, they're still getting to know each other, "but everyone has each other's backs. We're not leaving anyone out. We're working as one and still practicing to work as one," said Duenas.

As for Kiara Borja who moved back to Saipan last November, she said that being part of the team is a "blessing."

She said, "I came here with the intention of getting closer to my community, meeting people, and building relationships through a sport that I've loved and enjoyed playing all my life. The fact that I get to do this and go represent the CNMI in the Micro Games is such an honor and I'm very grateful to be doing it with this team, with these coaches, and in this sport."

With Aldan, Duenas, and Borja are Alannah Sablan, Angel Deleon Guerrero, Ashlie Aguon, Christy Aldan, Destiny Pangelinan, Jaylina Borja, Jhaneeka Atalig, Keolani Rios, Kiana Camacho, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Rosie Saralu, Jenisha Dubrall, and Britney Gopez.

With manager Flores in the coaching staff are Manny Sablan, Mario Aguon, and Mark Flores.

Washington's FTs finish rally as Mavs beat Thunder to reach West finals

PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

9 playoff rematches include Ravens-Chiefs and Rams-Lions on opening week

PAGE 15

Birthday haul nets *Jolene* first place

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

It was a birthday gift unlike any other for birthday boy Luther Taylor, angler for *Jolene* in the Inaugural Tasi To Table's CNMI "Reel Heroes" International Fishing Derby last Saturday, as he hauled in the first place 101-lb. marlin.

Their first-place catch made them $3,000 richer, as they celebrated Taylor's birthday, and honored a veteran aboard, Chico Reyes.

Second place and $2,000 went to *Rose I* captained by Juan Tenorio and Melvin Tenorio with their 72-lb. marlin. The side bet winner was 6.2 lbs. off the boat *Sea Folly*

See HAUL on Page 15

FLOYD MASGA

The crew of *Jolene* including captain Alex Sablan, far right, poses with their 101-lb. first-place marlin caught by birthday boy Luther Taylor, second left, during the Tasi To Table's Inaugural CNMI "Reel Heroes" International Fishing Derby last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

FLOYD MASGA

Sea Folly, winning crew of the side bet, poses with their catch during the Tasi To Table's Inaugural CNMI "Reel Heroes" International Fishing Derby last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

670 Rollers come back vs. Madflex for Pokka champs

LEIGH GASES

670 Rollers' Marc Tengco goes for a jumper through Madflex defenders during the second quarter of their championship game in the 2024 Pokka Cup last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

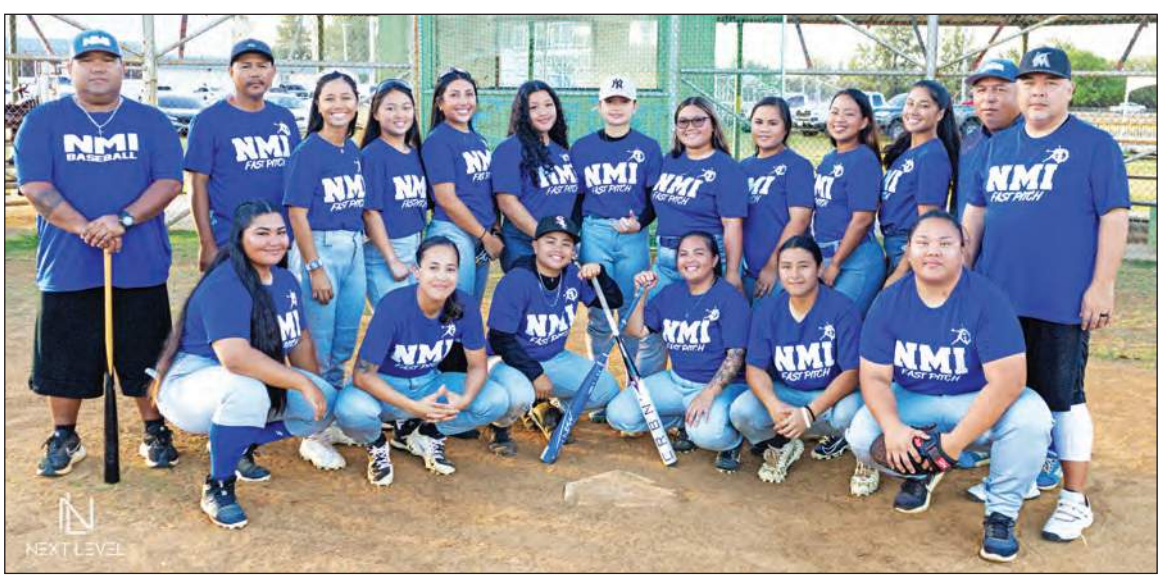
The 670 Rollers fought their way to a 76-70 win over Madflex in the 2024 Pokka Cup championships last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Heading into the final minutes, both teams were

See ROLLERS on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

The crew of second place *Rose I* poses with their prize along with Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, third right, and Tasi to Table president Gene Weaver, far left, during the awards ceremony of the Tasi To Table's Inaugural CNMI "Reel Heroes" International Fishing Derby last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.



Goal is gold for first fast pitch team in years in Micro Games

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The first ever NMI National Women's Fast Pitch Softball Team since 2006 is grinding day in and day out to reach their goal of bringing home the gold medal in the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24.

NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

The NMI National Women's Fast Pitch Softball Team poses for a group photo during one of the practices at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

The first day of softball games is set for June 17, as the first NMI fast pitch team in almost 20 years takes on teams from host Marshall Islands, Palau, and Pohnpei. So far, the full schedule of games is not available yet.

The NMI team practices are held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe on Mondays,

See GOAL on Page 15